AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): Amorphous silica particles, wherein

an oil absorption measured by JISK 6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber-basic characteristics) is more than 400ml/100g,

the maximum value of $\Delta Vp/\Delta logRp$ (where Vp is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and Rp is the pore radius [nm]) is 250 $mm^3/nm \cdot g$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

pore peak radius when the $\Delta Vp/\Delta logRp$ value is maximum is 15 to 100 nm.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, wherein

the maximum value of $\Delta Vp/\Delta logRp$ (where Vp is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and Rp is the pore radius [nm]) is 500 $mm^3/nm \cdot g$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

the pore peak radius when the $\Delta Vp/\Delta logRp$ value is maximum is 15 to 100 nm.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 2, wherein

the maximum value of $\Delta Vp/\Delta logRp$ (where Vp is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and Rp is the pore radius [nm]) is 1000 $mm^3/nm \cdot g$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method, and

the pore peak radius when the $\Delta Vp/\Delta logRp$ value is maximum is 15 to 100 nm.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, wherein the average particle size is 0.5 to 40 μm.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, wherein the bulk density is 20 to 200 g/1.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, obtained by baking.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing [[a]] amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, the process comprising

baking silica particles having an oil absorption of at least 340ml/100g at 200 – 990°C for 1 minute to 10 hours.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the time for baking is 10 minutes to 5 hours.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the resulting amorphous silica exhibits an oil absorption of more than 400 ml/100 g.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising the step of reacting at least one alkali metal silicate with at least one mineral acid.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising the step of adjusting the pH value of the final silica to 3 to 10 either before or after the drying of the silica slurry.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method of using a silica, the method comprising mixing the amorphous silica particles of Claim 1

in a coating material as a matting agent, or

in pharmaceuticals or agrochemicals as a carrier, or

in a rubber as a reinforcing agent.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): An adsorbent for pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, comprising the amorphous silica particles of Claim 1.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A matting agent, comprising the amorphous silica particles of Claim 1.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum value of $\Delta Vp/\Delta \log Rp$ (where Vp is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and Rp is the pore radius [nm]) is 2500 $mm^3/nm \cdot g$ or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the nitrogen adsorption isotherm method.